

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07 CEA-01
/113 W

-----059374 180549Z /15

R 171630Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC 4411
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UR, US, GW
SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE FRG:
SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE

1. MAIN THEME OF LIGHT SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF
PRESIDENT'S TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE FRG HAS
BEEN THAT TWO SIDES COULD NOT AGREE ON THE MAIN ECO-
NOMIC AND TRADE QUESTIONS WHICH ARE TO RECEIVE FURTHER
CONSIDERATION AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT. CORRESPONDENT
IN BONN MIKHAYLOV REPORTED IN JULY 15 PRAVDA THAT
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND THE PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED
AT THEIR PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT
PROBLEMS IN ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES AND THAT THEIR VIEWS REGARDING THEIR
RESOLUTION DO NOT COINCIDE. (PRAVDA CARRIED THE
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REPORT UNDER A HEADLINE "VIEWS DO NOT COINCIDE.") A
DAY LATER, IN JULY 16 PRAVDA, MIKHAYLOV, CITING
POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN BONN, OFFERED SLIGHTLY MODIFIED
VIEW THAT THE BILATERAL TALKS WERE NOT "MARKED BY
WIDE AGREEMENT" EXCEPT WITH REGARD TO "CONFIRMING
LOYALTY TO THE NATO MILITARY ALLIANCE." MORE AUTHORI-
TATIVE SOVIET COMMENTATOR YURIY ZHUKOV, IN PRAVDA'S

REGULAR SUNDAY INTERNATIONAL WEEK COLUMN, ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE TWO SIDES' VIEWS DID NOT COINCIDE, WHICH HE FINDS IS A "SIGNIFICANT PRELUDE" FOR THE UPCOMING SUMMIT. ZHUKOV ALSO CITES PRESS REPORTS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE CARTER-SCHMIDT TALKS COVERED EAST-WEST RELATIONS TO A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE. THE ONLY HINT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF SUCH DISCUSSION IN THE SOVIET PRESS IS CARRIED BY JULY 16 IZVESTIYA, WHEREIN BYKOV REPORTS FROM BONN THAT THE PRESIDENT INDICATED U.S. READINESS TO EXPAND COOPERATION WITH THE USSR WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, CONFIRMING THE U.S. INTENTION TO STRENGTHEN NATO. THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BERLIN IS A NEAR NON-EVENT IN THE SOVIET PRESS THROUGH MID-DAY JULY 17, WITH ONLY SCANT REFERENCE TO THE CPSIT HAVING TAKEN PLACE AND NO COMMENT WHATSOEVER.

2. COMMENT: SOVIET MEDIA RECENTLY HAVE BEEN PUSHING THE LINE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT VIEW DETENTE DIFFERENTLY, AND THAT THIS ACCOUNTS FOR EMERGING PROBLEMS IN U.S.-FRG RELATIONS. THIS LINE IS NOT GIVEN ITS USUAL ELABORATION IN THE LIGHT REPORTING ON THE CARTER-SCHMIDT MEETING BUT THE SOVIETS MAY WAIT FOR THE "RETURNS" OF THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT BEFORE ADVANCING IT AGAIN. MATLOCK
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